

Regular Meeting of the Durham County Board of Health, held

September 14, 2000, with the following members present:

William H. Burch, Chairman, Charles Chapman, Ellen Reckhow,

Ruth Smullin, Dr. Philip McHugh, Dr. Sydney A. Rose, William Small,

Craig Morgan, Dr. William C. Bordley, Michael O. Royster.

**CALL TO ORDER.** Mr. Burch, Chairman, called the Regular Meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Ms. Reckhow made a motion to approve the minutes of July 13, 2000. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rose and approved unanimously.

**BUDGET AMENDMENTS.** The Health Director recommended approval of the following four budget amendments.

Recognized \$3,987 in grant from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for tuberculosis control in the General Health Division. The grant will be used to contract the services of a community health bilingual position for providing directly-observed therapy to tuberculosis patients. The contracted position will serve as a liaison between the community and the Health Department to improve tuberculosis control in the community.

Recognize \$10,225 from the BeActive North Carolina partnership for the Health Education Division. The one-year funding will be used to support the Durham County Worksite Wellness Programs, the Durham County Fitness Leadership Council, the Durham County Commissioners' Great Family Fun Walk, the provision of four mini-grants to African-American faith communities, and the Health Devils Mentoring Program.

Recognize \$6,487 additional funds from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to Project Straighttalk. The grant will supplement funding for a needs-assessment of IV drug users.

Recognize a \$51,000 grant in collaboration with Durham Affordable Housing Coalition (DAHC). The Health Department will receive \$5,000 to support investigation and outreach efforts towards childhood lead poisoning prevention. The DAHC, under contract with the Health Department, will receive \$46,000 to support a bilingual Housing Outreach Coordinator position, travel and training, supplies and contract services for design and translation of printed materials in their efforts towards childhood lead poisoning prevention for the Hispanic community.

Mr. Chapman made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Ms. Reckhow seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

**DURHAM'S WELLNESS PARTNERSHIP -UPDATE.** Mr. Letourneau introduced Ms. Margaret "Peg" Wolfe, PHN I Supervisor, School Health Program. He said that Ms. Wolfe and Stephanie Howard, Nutritionist III, would highlight some of the activities that are going on in the areas of health promotion and disease prevention provided by nurses and nutritionists that work very closely in and with the school system.

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Ms. Wolfe provided the Board a handout entitled, *Durham Wellness Partnership, Health Status: Durham County School Children*. During the 1998-1999 school year the data on the health of Durham Public School students was reviewed by the Durham Wellness Partnership that is comprised of organizations/agencies within the community.

Ms. Wolfe said that because school nurses come from the Durham County Public Health Department they certainly have wellness and health promotion in mind.

She said by the end of the 1999 school year, many students had been identified with chronic health problems and plans were established to guide school staff in managing them at school. Ms. Wolfe said school nurses provided various health screenings and made referrals, as well as counseling and providing support to pregnant and parenting students during the school year.

Ms. Stephanie Howard described Durham's Innovative Nutrition Education for Lasting Improvements in Fitness and Eating (DINE for LIFE program) for the Board. The Health Department in partnership with Durham Public Schools and many community agencies and organizations conducts this program which focuses on students and their families.

Ms. Howard emphasized that increasing knowledge and improving nutrition and physical activity behaviors can lead to healthier lifestyles. The development of healthy habits helps to ensure adequate nutrient intake and activity for proper growth and development, as well as decrease risk factors for diseases later in life.

Both presenters and the Health Director answered questions from the Board.

**LEAD PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.** Ms. Sue Guptill, Supervisor, Child Health Program and Lead Nurse Consultant presented information about the screening for lead in children. She said that ideally when a child is screened the result should be zero.

Ms. Guptill complemented Dr. Bordley and thanked him for all the knowledge that he has shared with her on the subject of lead poisoning.

She provided handouts and presented lead-screening data for Durham. Ms. Guptill said that lead testing in Durham County has increased this year. She believes the year-end data will reflect even a more significant increase.

Ms. Guptill said the HUD grant partners are City of Durham Housing and Community Development Department, PEACH Program, Durham Affordable Housing Coalition (DAHC), and the Health Department. The grant funds new positions and programs and increases the effectiveness of the existing lead poisoning prevention programs.

The City Housing Inspectors look for lead paint hazards; get older homes tested, and encourage owners to participate in lead programs. The City will refer owners to the proposed preventative maintenance training.

The PEACH program cleans older homes where there are young children to reduce lead levels. When lead is found in the home, PEACH

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encourages families to get their children tested. PEACH will make referrals to the proposed preventative maintenance program.

The DAHC does community outreach and education to get substandard homes repaired. The grant funds outreach and education on lead poisoning through the media, industry associations and community groups. This ongoing outreach increases the participation in both existing and new lead programs. The coalition targets intensive outreach in areas with high numbers of substandard homes. These areas also have high numbers of homes built before 1950.

The Health Department hired a Lead Nurse Consultant to do outreach and education for families of young children and health professionals to make it possible to increase the number of children tested for lead poisoning. The Lead Nurse Consultant provides follow-up for children with lead levels as low as 10ug/dL by visiting homes to do education and make referrals to lead poisoning prevention programs.

Mr. Donnie McFall, Environmental Health Director, said the Environmental Health Division's involvement with lead hazards and the prevention of lead poisoning revolves around the enforcement of state rules that *Govern the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*.

He said that Marc Meyer, Environmental Health Program Specialist, is authorized the state to enforce these rules and is a trained and certified Lead-Based Paint Inspector and Risk Assessor.

Mr. McFall said HB 506, ratified in 1991, is an *Act to Clarify Law Providing Prevention of Lead Poisoning in Children*. The basic requirements of enforcement and the initial activities for screening and investigation of lead poisoning are specifically addressed in HB 506. The investigation and enforcement process for one single case can take several months to over one year. A unit or facility undergoing abatement that includes "enclosing or encapsulating" a surface containing lead-based paint is required to maintain compliance. That case is never closed.

Mr. McFall reported that over the period 1994-1999 there have been 27 confirmed Elevated Blood Levels that have required investigation by the Environmental Health Division. This is an average of 5 per year and reimbursement from the state is \$100 - \$2,000 per case, which is not enough money to support a position or purchase a x-ray fluorescence analyzer to detect specific concentrations of lead.

Mr. Meyer became Program Specialist in 1998 and has conducted 26 lead-based paint investigations, 49 consultative site visits, and over 900 consultative contacts. He gives 50% time to the Lead Program to provide the required enforcement. He continues to have inspection responsibilities in the Food & Lodging Division.

Following the presentation, Ms. Guptill and Mr. McFall responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Chapman, Vice Chairman, said that in dealing with the lead program issue that he commends the Health Department for its support in the prevention of lead poisoning. He said a neutral health professional came to the agency and provided the kind of quality education that the staff needed to hear.

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He said the technical advice received from Mr. McFall's staff was most valuable. He said there was immediate interaction with the Health Director and a proactive approach was taken to notify parents that testing and follow up was available at the Health Department.

Mr. Chapman said, without reservations or hesitation and not because he a Board of Health member, that he would recommend the services of the Health Department because of the first hand experience in the way it delivers services as it relates to lead.

**TUBERCULOSIS UPDATE.** Dr. Janice Stratton, Medical Director, shared educational information of tuberculosis disease through a PowerPoint presentation.

She believed it to be a timely presentation because of a confirmed case of tuberculosis that was diagnosed in the school system. She discussed how persons are exposed to the tuberculosis bacteria, how it is determined that a person has the disease, and the treatment that is prescribed. Dr. Stratton said tuberculosis is a very treatable disease, but it is important to start treatment as quickly as possible.

She said a small amount of antigen is injected in the forearm that makes the body send out its army of immune cells to kill the germ. She said the tuberculosis test is "positive" if a bump about the size of a pencil eraser or bigger appears on the arm. This bump means you probably have TB infection. If it is "negative" you may be re-tested in a few weeks just to be sure. If you have TB infection then you need medication.

Dr. Stratton said both prevention and treatment involve a combination of four oral antibiotics for a period of six to nine months. A multi-pronged attack is used to treat tuberculosis to prevent a person from developing a resistance.

The Medical Director responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Letourneau said that virtually every disease that we immunize against or that is seen as infectious, we are going to see it again as the immigrant population from areas without vaccines or exposure to certain illnesses arrives in the United States or in North Carolina.

The Health Director said this would not be the only time that the Health Department will be involved with the school system. He believes it was a very successful campaign for the Department and that it allowed the Health Department to establish a relationship with the school around the tuberculosis case. Mr. Letourneau said he believes the response of the Health Department and the school system was very appropriate.

Dr. McHugh commented on the positive television and newspaper coverage the Department received regarding the event.

The Board thanked Dr. Stratton for the information.

**OTHER.** The Chairman discussed the upcoming Board of Health Retreat. He recommends the Retreat be scheduled on January 11, 2001.

Mr. Letourneau said that January 11<sup>th</sup> coincides with the budget process. He said it would allow budget adjustments to be made after the Retreat if the Board indicates changes in policy or direction.

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The Retreat is held away from the Health Department and is approximately a 4-hour-meeting.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR REPORT.**

Mr.Letourneau commented that the TB experience went well and it really is a testimony to public health professionals working in unison and with teamwork. TB is an issue that could potentially be very explosive in the community, not only because of the nature of the illness but because of the immigrant population's potential for backlash.

The Health Director said the Health Department remains very concerned about this issue and public health will see more of these events, if it is not TB it will be some other disease. He said the Department must be very careful in how it pursues and deals with these issues so those particular groups of people are not ostracized. For the Health Department to be successful it must be very careful about protecting medical confidentiality. That was achieved in the handling of this particular incident.

**HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION**

**Health Promotion and Wellness**

- Joanie Hoggard and Aimee LaFrance facilitated an educational session on stress for the Nursing Division Supervisors' retreat.
- Health Promotion & Wellness staff was invited back to Phoenix House to conduct an educational session on the dangers of smoking. Phoenix House has requested continuation of the program on a regular basis as a result of the presentation given by Joanie Hoggard.
- Health Promotion and Wellness has collaborated with the Durham Exchange Club to provide ten diabetes educational sessions to staff and clients.
- Joanie Hoggard is coordinating training for the Health Education Division on gun safety. Dr.Tamera Coyne-Beasley will conduct the training in addition to facilitating the Gun Safety Team meetings.
- Domestic violence presentations have been given at the Criminal Justice Resource Center.

**Family Connections**

- The Teen Outreach Program held three staff orientations for participating schools. Classes began on August 8. Consent forms and intake forms were disseminated and have been collected from ¾ of the participants. Current TOP enrollment is approximately 600 students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Service Learning is scheduled to begin in October. Schools and service learning agencies that are participating have signed agreements outlining their roles as well as the roles of the Health Department. This year TOP will incorporate the Baby Think It Over (BTIO) and Empathy Belly into the Teen Outreach Program.

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- Participants of the T.E.A.S. Program continue to use BTIO and the Empathy Belly as part of their teen pregnancy prevention educational experience. T.E.A.S. also has started a waiting list for the upcoming year.
- Jennifer Woodward assisted School Health Nurses with off-site Kindergarten Health Assessments. Ms. Woodward also revised the School Health Team brochure and poster. The brochure contains information regarding team services from the Health department. The poster identifies the contact person and the telephone number of each division.

**Communicable Disease Education**

- Project StraighTalk staff implemented additional programs along with its regularly scheduled sessions. Carlotta Lee facilitated three support group meetings for HIV-positive women. She conducted a program on sexually transmitted diseases for clients at the Butner Adolescent Treatment Center. Ms. Lee also met with Dr. David Jolly, a professor in the NCCU Health Education Department, regarding a needs-assessment for our proposed young adult STD/HIV peer education program.
- Tim Moore arranged for our Community Advisory Council members to staff an STD/HIV information table at the NC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the Carolina Theater.
- The entire Health Education staff attended the STD clinic information session on Bacterial Vaginosis.
- Phyllis Cochran and Constance Copeland attended the Region IV, HIV Community Planning Group meeting on August 15. The Community Advisory Council monthly meeting was held on August 26.
- Phyllis Cochran conducted a STD educational session at the Butner Alcohol and Drug Treatment Facility (ADATC), bi-weekly educational sessions at the county jail pods and STARR program, and a session at the Guess Road Prison, outreach for the Syphilis Elimination Project.
- The Health Education Division held a Project STAND inter-divisional meeting on August 24.
- Phyllis Cochran and Tim Moore conducted weekly community outreach activities to targeted populations. One-on-one STD educational sessions are scheduled on a referral basis from the STD clinic in the Health Department.
- Phyllis Cochran attended the monthly Syphilis Elimination Project held on August 16 which included all the project counties. Interviewing to fill a LPN position to conduct Syphilis screening in the jail.

**NUTRITION DIVISION**

**Children and Lead**

- Spoke to a class of 32 daycare providers at Durham Tech on the role of nutrition in reducing the risk of lead poisoning in children. Topics covered included special nutrient needs of children with high lead levels, hygiene, food storage, nutritional supplements, meal planning,

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home remedies that may be hazardous and the role of the childcare provider.

**Children and Feeding Relationships**

- Spoke to eighty Head Start staff members on *The Feeding Relationship*. The presentation included interactions between the daycare provider and child during feeding situations such as meals and snacks and how this can influence a child's food intake.

**Clinical Nutrition Services**

- Received 54 nutrition referrals during the month of July and 47 referrals in August.
- Began implementing income screening to apply sliding scale fees for patients seen outside the Health Department. This has initially decreased our offsite prenatal counseling as we diligently work with our partners to implement this process.

**DINE for LIFE Program--Schools**

- Taught a class of at-risk elementary students enrolled in a summer enrichment program. Seventeen students participated in the nutrition lesson, which included a taste-testing session.
- Taught four classes in Burton Elementary summer program. Approximately 70 students in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade interactively learned about fruits and vegetables including taste testing of fresh produce.
- Conducted two nutrition sessions in conjunction with Durham Parks and Recreation for 35 children.
- School nutritionists met with Durham Public Schools cafeteria managers to discuss DINE for LIFE program goals and activities planned for the new school year. Nutritionists and cafeteria managers work closely together to conduct school-wide health promotions during breakfast and lunch that reinforce classroom teaching.
- Presented a description of the Produce Man/5-A-Day promotion conducted in Durham Schools and grocery stores during March at the State 5-a-Day Coalition meeting as part of "School Success Stories." She will attend the meetings on a quarterly basis to keep the nutrition division apprised of the current 5-A-Day events and information.
- Elementary nutritionists have been working very diligently to complete a series curriculum for the upcoming school year. The curriculum will be used in the target classrooms to teach nutrition and physical activity messages to Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in 10 elementary schools. Planning is also underway for the school-wide and cafeteria promotions, which will take place during the 2000-01 academic year.
- Planning is underway for the upcoming school year in the middle schools participating in DINE for LIFE. Action plans have been formulated and are being introduced for principal and cafeteria manager involvement and approval.
- Elementary nutritionists have been meeting with new school administrators and staff to discuss the DINE for LIFE program in their

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schools to ensure continuity of nutrition services and the DINE for LIFE program.

- Elementary nutritionists began screenings in target classrooms to assess the nutrition and physical activity knowledge and behaviors of the children who will receive educational programming this academic year. This will serve as a baseline for comparison of post screenings that will be conducted in May 2001.

**DINE for LIFE--Community**

- DINE for LIFE staff served on the planning committee for the Few Gardens Housing Development Health Fair. Additionally, nutrition information was provided to interested individuals attending the event. Over 120 individuals enjoyed the free meal and the health and wellness education provided at the event.
- Conducted a meeting on the importance of nutrition and physical activity at the Hoover Housing Community. Conducted outreach to Cornwallis and Liberty Housing Communities to develop relationships and build community contacts for future programming.
- Presented a food safety class to residents of the Fayetteville Street Housing Development.
- In the development stages: a survey tool to collect information from community groups for use conducting social marketing campaigns; a newsletter for food stamp recipients, nutrition and physical activity resources for use in the community.

**Division Staffing**

- The Nutrition Division is fully staffed after an extensive and lengthy recruitment period.
- Peili Lu, MPH, RD, LDN, was hired for a new part-time childcare nutrition position funded by the Durham Partnership for Children. She works in collaboration with Department childcare nurse consultants to provide consultation and group education about early childhood nutrition issues and concerns to childcare providers, parents, and allied-health professionals.
- Michelle Taylor, RD, LDN, filled a full-time position in the DINE for LIFE Program and is working at George Watts, Eastway, Lakewood, and WG Pearson Elementary Schools.
- Jennifer Ellsworth, MS, RD, LDN, filled a part-time clinical position and will join us in September. She will provide nutrition counseling to teens at Southern and Hillside High Schools Wellness Centers as well as provide services in the Health Department.

**Continuing Education**

- Two nutritionists completed the fourth training module of the Pediatric Nutrition Course. The training is sponsored by the Women's and Children's Health Section of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.
- Our childcare nutritionist attended the "BeActive Kids" training at the County Extension office. "BeActive Kids" is a kit that includes

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resources to educate pre-kindergarten children and their families about the benefits of physical activity and nutrition.

## **NURSING DIVISION**

### **Family Planning**

- The Family Planning Clinic has been fully staffed since the last week in July when Ann Skaife, MSN, FNP joined the staff. August was a very good month for visits to the clinic. One hundred five (105) initial exams and 171 annual exams were performed compared to 48 initial exams and 116 annual exams in July. The wait for an appointment for a new patient decreased from two months to six weeks. It is expected that the waiting period will continue to decrease slowly over the next few months. Potential patients are encouraged to attempt to walk-in. If there are others who do not keep their appointments, they can be seen.
- Wyeth-Ayerst, the manufacturer of Norplant System, found that tests for shelf life stability were at the low end of normal in some of the recently manufactured systems. The manufacturer does not think that there is a greater risk of pregnancy for patients with these Norplants, but they want to err on the side of caution. Providers were asked to notify all patients with Norplants inserted after October 7, 1999 of the need to use a second method of birth control (e.g., condoms) until further testing is done. Their tests should be completed in one to two months. Clinic staff as advised contacted thirteen (13) Family Planning patients.

### **Maternal Health**

#### **Prenatal Clinic**

- During the months of July and August, 257 new patients presented for care. Of these, 49% (127) were Hispanic/Latino. The total number of clinic encounters was 1,149.
- Wanda Thompson, MSN, WHNP provided a training update to participants in a workshop sponsored by the American Social Health Association (ASHA) in July at North Carolina Central University. She included information on cervical cancer, use of Thin Prep Pap test, prevention education and treatment.
- Due to the increase prevalence of HIV infection among heterosexual females and African American women of childbearing age and the new nursing staff in the OB Clinic (about 50%), an HIV update for clinic staff was needed. Kat Turner, MPH, and Jacqueline Clements, Communicable Disease Control Specialist, provided the training that included up-to-date disease and treatment information, statistics and a listing of local available resources.
- Nurse midwives from the staff of Duke University Medical Center began providing services in the Tuesday evening and Saturday morning clinics through a contract with Lincoln Community Health Center.

### **Baby Love Program (Maternity Care Coordination & Outreach)**

- LaMonica Hunter, RN, received a certificate of completion for Enhanced Nurse Training offered by the State and UNC-Chapel Hill in July.

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- Susan Blake, Elisabeth Palmer, Susanne Hayes, Gina Hill, LaMonica Hunter, Mary Rogers, Donna Edwards and Valencia Swain attended Maternity Care Coordination Update Teleconference in Raleigh and Chapel Hill, NC July 2000.
- Loretta Covington and Linda Ettson attended Maternal Outreach Workers' update conference held at the Friday Center in July.
- The Maternal Health Program submitted a grant application to the Healthy Start Foundation to assist with tuition and books for employees attending intermediate and beginners Spanish classes. The grant request was for \$2,000. Award notifications will be received in September.

### **Child Health Program**

#### **Child Service Coordination (CSC)**

- Cheryl Kegg, a Team Leader in the Child Service Coordination Project, was appointed as a local representative to the NC Consortium of Partnerships: Families, Neonatal Intensive Care Units, and Community Programs. This project facilitates transition from hospital to home for medically involved infants who have been in Neonatal Intensive Care settings.
- All CSC staff now has laptop computers and training in their use for patient documentation. The staff on the county computer network has begun to record patient documentation electronically. When the network is completed all staff will be able to do the same.

#### **Linkages**

- The staff in the "Linkages Project" has been making an effort to enroll low-income women who do not have Medicaid, but this has been difficult because many of the women who fit this description speak Spanish. The usual source of families for the project is the Department's Maternity Clinic, but the population of English-speaking women who do not have Medicaid is low. Veronica Gray, RN, is contacting the office of the private physicians and explaining the project to a nurse. She is also delivering flyers to those who will accept them.

#### **Lead Project**

- Shirley Holloway, RN, BSN, presented and coordinated a class about lead poisoning to students in the Early Childhood Education program at Durham Technical Community College. This presentation (which included Lee Lichtenwalter, RD, from our Nutrition Division and staff from PEACH and the Coalition for Affordable Housing) was very well received; all evaluations were positive and indicated interest in the topic. Kathy Jackson, RN, BSN, Team Leader for the Child Care Health Consultation project, arranged for Ms. Holloway to do this presentation; they will work closely in the future to get information about lead poisoning to parents and child care providers.

#### **Child Care Health Consultation**

- Peili Lu, RD, from the Nutrition Division, joined the project team. She has started to contact childcare centers to begin the assessment of nutrition needs within the centers. Renee Parks of the Health Education Division is also contributing 4 hours per week to help the

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project staff by accumulating materials, planning presentations, etc.  
This project is now fully staffed and expanding rapidly!

**Sue Guptill, MSN, RN, Program Supervisor**

- Participated on the Comprehensive Newborn Services Committee. This is a committee facilitated by Durham's Partnership for Children to review and map the current resources available to pregnant women and newborns in the county and to design a system that will allow less fragmented access to those resources. This committee meets every 2-4 weeks.
- Attended the Case Planning Conferences sponsored by Durham's Family Court. These conferences are designed to allow all of the agencies involved with children who have been removed from their parents' custody over the past week to meet and develop a plan to be submitted to the court during the custody hearing. Parents and their attorneys also attend the meeting. Each representative also offers agency resources for families when appropriate, and these can be incorporated into the plan.
- Provided information and recommendations to state consultants regarding the impact that changes in reimbursement on the Child Service Coordination Project would have on local Health Departments.
- Was invited to meet with the state Child Service Coordination Advisory Board along with two other CSC supervisors to discuss policies, protocols, and needs related to new technologies available for communication and documentation.

**Home Health**

- One new employee joined the Home Health staff on August 15. Eula Robertson, an aide in the In-home Aide Program, returned after working one year at Duke. Her presence will allow an increase the in-home aide services provided.
- There were 12 home health referrals in July and 8 in August. Eight referrals were declined due to staffing shortages. A part-time (57%) Public Health Nurse position is being advertised. Filling this position will allow the agency to accept more referrals.
- Kathy McConnell, RN, and Claire Hammitt, RN, attended a Prospective Payment workshop on July 20, 2000 given by the Health Care Finance Administration (HCFA). This workshop provided information about the reimbursement method scheduled to begin October 1, 2000 and regulations for Medicare services. The process is very complicated and will require additional steps when billing Medicare for Home Health services.

The process requires "tagging" the Medicare patients prior to providing services through the Direct Data Entry System used for billing. If the patient is already "tagged" by another agency and this agency provides services, the other agency will be paid for the services. The Home Care Association continues to try to convince HCFA to un-bundle supplies from the prospective payment and reimburse agencies on a national reimbursement scale. No changes have been made at this point. There is sizeable support in congress to

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rescind the 15% cut in PPS beginning October 1, 2001. The official vote has not occurred.

**Jail Health**

- Two new members were added to the Jail Health Staff on July 3. They are Claudine Smith, R.N, and Blanca White, L.P.N. On August 22, Idongesit Ebeute-Okon, RN, joined the staff in a job-share arrangement (45% time).
- On a weekend, during routine TB testing of inmates at Durham County Detention facility, eighty-seven (87) inmates were tested. Twenty-one (24%) returned with positive results. These findings were immediately reported to Dr. Stratton. Collaborating with the nurses in the Chest Clinic, it was discovered that a patient who was being treated for infectious TB by the Health Department, but had a warrant out for Health Law violation, had been jailed in the Detention Center for ten days under an assumed name. The Jail Health Staff started immediately with follow-up, first testing the inmates that were housed with the incarcerated patient. Following this action, the remaining inmates were tested. A total of four hundred ninety (490) inmates were tested, 55 tested positive. These inmates received chest x-rays and treatment. Inmates who had been released from the facility were referred to the Chest Clinic for community follow-up.
- Eight TB screening clinics were held for Durham County Sheriff's Department Employees, who may have been exposed to this person. There were some positive tests that have been followed by x-rays and treatment.
- The Jail Health Program coordinated with Phillip Price, Director of Clinical Rotations for Duke Physician Assistant Students, to utilize the medical unit as a part of the clinical rotation at the Health Department. The Medical Clinic Staff have enjoyed hosting Ashley Lowell, their first Physician Assistant Student, as a part of her DCHD rotation. She has been enthusiastic and amazed about the opportunities for learning that are available in the Medical Clinic at the jail.
- Sadie Vestal, RN, who is certified by the National Commission for Correctional Health Care, participated in a project funded by a grant from the North Carolina Center for Nursing. She prepared a poster on the STARR Program, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program in the Detention Center, and was invited to participate in the National Conference for NCCHC in St. Louis on September 8 through 13. The poster will also be presented at the bi-annual exposition meeting of the North Carolina Center for Nursing.
- The Jail Health personnel have participated in DCHD's program to eradicate German measles. A total of 46 MMRs have been given to Hispanics inmates.

**School Health**

- School Health Nurses coordinated and staffed three Kindergarten Health Assessment clinics for 50 children at Northeast Central Durham Services Center during August and September. They also assisted Promising Practices with three clinics at Pearson and Smith Elementary Schools for 26 children. The purpose of the clinics was to help assure that kindergarten students would not be excluded from school for missing the 30-day deadline to obtain the Assessments.

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- Peg Wolfe, MSN, RN and Catherine Medlin, RN, elementary team leader met with staff from Durham's Partnership for Children to evaluate the process of mass vision screening for grades kindergarten through 5 this past school year.
- Peg Wolfe, RN, Catherine Medlin, RN, Peggy Best, RN, Exceptional Children Nurse, and Dr. Stratton met twice with a DUMC emergency room nurse during the summer to develop recommendations for heat and ozone advisory days.
- Three new school nurses were hired. They are Jean Wrenn, Jennifer Mauch and Terri Paynter. Two vacancies remain.
- Peg Wolfe, RN, and Mary Hoose, RN (school nurse assigned to Southern High School), helped coordinate and carry out TB skin testing with major assistance from the Chest Clinic and Dr. Stratton.

**Peg Wolfe, RN, Program Supervisor**

- Met with the After-school Academy task force led by Dr. LeRoy Walker to provide input on health and wellness programming that could be incorporated into the Academy.
- Coordinated another rubella outreach at the Latino soccer league games on August 13 providing 30 MMR immunizations.
- Attended two child-planning conferences, an interagency meeting that makes recommendations for placement and services for children under DSS care.
- Provided a 3-hour orientation to the Health Department for NCCU nursing students. She also coordinated clinical placement for 12 generic nursing students in the agency for the semester.

**Neighborhood Nurse - Few Gardens**

- Kerry Smith, RN, had 2 initial contacts and 197 encounters in July and 110 encounters in August.
- Ms. Smith collaborated with several agencies to host a health fair on July 21 at Few Gardens. Residents of the development were asked to participate by manning booths, assisting with registration, preparing and serving food and other tasks for the event. Participants were asked to visit at least 4 educational booths before going to the refreshments. There were 121 participants at the event. Exhibitors included Family Planning, Health Check, Carolina Access, Project Alpha, Economic Development Support Services (EDSS), and Promising Practices. In addition to the educational information provided, cholesterol and blood pressure screenings were performed with referrals as needed.
- Ms. Smith gave a presentation on Child Development to a group of 5 residents. She collaborated with agencies in the community to meet the needs of the residents.
- During August, it was announced that the Housing Authority received a federal grant to revitalize the community that is currently Few Gardens. The plan is to demolish Few Gardens and rebuild with single and multiple family home sites. All of the current residents are to be

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relocated by April 2001. It is desirable to utilize the neighborhood nurse concept in another housing development. No decisions have been made.

**Neighborhood Nurse - Fayetteville Street**

- On August 21, Joyce Snipes joined the Neighborhood Nurse Project as a community outreach worker. She is a resident of Fayetteville Street Development. She had worked with Ann Milligan, RN, as the President of the Resident Counsel prior to seeking this position. She is a certified phlebotomist and is eager to use these skills in the community. Ann is planning to become a certified HIV counselor and to have Joyce perform the lab component. When Ann's training is completed, she plans to offer HIV testing and counseling in the development once a month.
- Ann Milligan had 15 initial contacts and 190 encounters in July and 16 initial contacts and 408 encounters in August.
- Ms. Milligan became involved with several committees in order to get current information on initiatives addressing major health concerns. These committees include Project StraightTalk Advisory Council, the Folic Acid Committee, the Fatherhood Initiative and the Infant Mortality Reduction Task Force. She also attended the Fayetteville Street Resident Council meeting.
- Ms. Milligan developed and distributed a flyer to announce the availability of HIV/Syphilis test result and counseling in the neighborhood on July 15, 2000. One person came for test results and two came for counseling.
- On July 9, Ms. Milligan attended the "Stop the Violence Street Show." She also encouraged the residents to participate in the National Night Out held August 1.
- There were 4 newborn/ postpartum referrals in July and August. One of the babies had to be referred to the Pediatric Clinic to have the cord clamp removed and an evaluation for discharge from the cord. A mother of one of the newborns was 15 years old. Ms. Milligan referred her to the WIC Program, Medicaid and to make a well baby appointment. She has encouraged this teenage mother to stay in school.
- Ms. Milligan assisted with the kindergarten physicals held at Pearson school.
- Ms. Milligan assisted in signing up 14 residents to participate in the Summer Women's Health Workshop sponsored by the American Social Health Association (ASHA) beginning August 22. This workshop was offered twice a week for 3 weeks to educate women about cervical cancer. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the participants about their health and to improve workshops for the future. This initiative was part of a study with small incentives provided throughout the workshop and a \$25 gift certificate for a family portrait given upon completion.
- Five women with problem pregnancies are being followed weekly for education and medical appointment follow-up. An infant with a rash was seen and sent to the MD. The baby was allergic to antibiotic given

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for an ear infection. New medication was given and Ms. Milligan will follow up. Another infant was seen with chest congestion and fever. The mother was instructed to have baby seen in clinic as soon as possible.

- Ms. Milligan continued the fight for education. She signed up 28 residents for the GED/HS Diploma and Computer class through the American Community Resource Program. She assisted 5 clients in their pursuit for employment in August.

## **GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES CLINIC - JULY**

### **BCCCP/Adult Health Screening Program**

- 12 women were screened in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP).
- 7 persons were screened for domestic violence.
- 121 persons were screened for hypertension.
- 3 persons were screened for diabetes.

### **Communicable Disease Screening**

- 460 persons were screened in the STD clinic.
- 331 persons were screened for HIV: 208 persons were tested at the Health Department; 18 were tested in the jail; and 105 were tested at LCHC. There were 4 positive tests: 1 from Durham County Detention Center; 1 from LCHC; and 2 from the Health Department.
- 339 PPDs were given.
- 11 persons were started on TB prevention medicine.
- 18 chest x-rays were done.

### **Reportable Diseases**

- Dog Bite Investigations: 5
- Campylobacter: 3
- Cryptosporidiosis: 1
- E.Coli 0157:H7: 1 11 y/o without complications
- Salmonellosis: 3: none were S. typhi and one child had a pet turtle.

### **Immunization**

- Immunizations given: 474
- Immunization Outreach clinics: 4

### **Laboratory**

- 4,952 tests were performed. Fred Leeds, Laboratory Supervisor has resigned to take a position with an area reference lab.

### **Pharmacy**

- 2,570 prescriptions filled.

## **GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES CLINIC - AUGUST**

### **BCCCP/Adult Health Screening Program**

- 8 women screened in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP).
- 89 women screened for domestic violence.
- 217 persons screened for hypertension.
- 2 persons screened for diabetes.

**Communicable Disease Screening**

- 573 persons screened in STD clinic.
- 352 persons screened for HIV; 229 in Health Department; 115 in LCHC; 8 in jail. There were 5 positive results: 5 at the Health Department; 2 at LCHC.

**Reportable Diseases**

- Campylobacter: 1
- Cryptosporidiosis: 1
- Hepatitis B Carriers: 5
- Rabies (animal bites): 12
- Salmonellosis: 2. 1 was *S. typhi* in the blood
- Shigella: 3
- Tuberculosis: 1 new case
- PPDs given Tuberculosis for work and for contacts: 491
- Chest x-rays for the positive PPDs: 50
- Tuberculosis, latent infection started on prevention: 19

**Immunization**

- Immunizations given: 523
- Outreach clinics: 2

**Laboratory**

- 5,623 laboratory tests were performed

**Pharmacy**

- 3,059 prescriptions filled.

**HEALTH DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

- Duke's Community Health Division has succeeded in obtaining funding from the Duke Endowment to purchase, equip and operate a mobile dental van. The grant is \$450,000 over three years. The Health Department will work with Duke in staffing the van with a dentist, dental assistant, and possibly a dental hygienist. The dental van will operate initially at schools identified with the highest number of children eligible for free and reduced lunches.
- There are an estimated 15,000 children in Durham County eligible for Medicaid and 1,300 eligible for HealthChoice for Children. Conservative budget estimates project sufficient fee for service revenue from Medicaid and HealthChoice for Children to support the salaries and benefits of the dental staff. Start up funding to support salaries and benefits will be available to bridge the gap between operations start-up and revenue collection.
- Health Department Dental staff is actively engaged in planning the design and equipping of the van. Staff has toured a demonstration van. Once a configuration is designed it will take approximately 4 months to build and deliver the vehicle. Budget amendments and new positions will be submitted to the Board of Health for approval at a point in time to coincide with acquisition of the van.
- Held two Rubella Immunization Program update meeting with Epi Team staff members and a staff person from the state Health Department to discuss progress to date and future steps for our

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continuing Rubella Immunization Campaign targeted toward Hispanic/Latino residents.

- Attended an organizational meeting with Promising Practices staff to discuss expanding and enhancing primary care service delivery to our aging residents.
- Attended Durham's Partnership for Children (DPfC) meeting during which the Health Director was elected Chairman of the Durham's Partnership for Children Board of Directors. Met subsequently with Sue Ruth, Executive Director of the Partnership, to discuss various orientation and transition issues related to assuming the Chairman position. There will likely be opportunities for the Health Department to submit proposals that are health issues based as the Partnership's intention to fund around issues related to child health care and day care for children 0 to 5 years of age.
- Influenza Immunization activities are being delayed by at least one month due to manufacturing and distribution problems nationally. It is not clear when and how much of our vaccine order will be filled. The Health Department may be forced to restrict flu vaccine distribution solely to at risk populations such as the elderly and others with depressed immune systems and chronic diseases.
- Attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Local Boards of Health held in Raleigh.
- Attended three organizational meetings of a project to create "After School Academies" in Durham Public Schools identified as low income, at risk. Dr. Leroy Walker chairs the group. The group is charged with developing after school programming to improve academic performance through athletic, academic, and other activities. There will be a health and nutrition component associated with each school program.
- Attended an update meeting of the Syphilis Elimination Project. It was reported that State Health Department Disease Investigator staff are not permitted to take blood samples in the field or transport persons under 18. Durham Health Department staff have been called upon to perform phlebotomy services in place of the state staff. Contacted the state program manager and expressed the Health Department's concerns regarding these issues. The Durham Health Department's position is that **all** STD intervention staff should be required to draw blood and transport clients as necessary.
- Chaired the August and September Executive Committee meetings of Durham's Partnership for Children. The issue of an appropriate facility for Operation Breakthrough (Head Start) was discussed. There is support for committing Partnership resources to assist Operation Breakthrough with planning and acquiring a facility suitable for Head Start activities.
- Participated in a "Hispanic Latino Issues" panel discussion at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) meeting in Durham. Durham County Government hosted the meeting.

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- Volunteered along with Dr. Stratton, Gayle Harris, and Becky Freeman to work at the NCACC meeting. We assisted meeting participants as they boarded buses for a dinner at the Museum.
- Met with Tony Noel from Human Resources regarding a number of salary issues pertaining to recruitment of new staff and retention of current staff.
- Attended the court hearing for a Tuberculosis patient who has repeatedly refused to follow the necessary treatment regimen. The individual was found guilty of violating Public Health law and was sentenced to up to two years in a state facility until his treatment for Tuberculosis is complete.
- An active case of Tuberculosis was diagnosed in a student at Southern High School. 263 close contacts have been tested. 21 have positive PPD skin tests. There are being evaluated and will be offered appropriate drug therapy. The Health Department will re-test those who tested negative in November when the maximum incubation period for Tuberculosis expires. The Health Department has received accolades in the media as a result of the way the issue was managed.
- Marcia Robinson, Dr. Stratton and I met with the State Health Department Architect, Durham County General Services, and County Engineering staffs to begin planning for the renovation and remodeling of the client intake area. This capital improvement project was approved as part of the "Pay As You Go" budget for the current fiscal year. We are targeting the end of calendar year 2000 as a completion date. We also used this as an opportunity to tour the Director of General Services, Mike Turner, through the facility to brief him about numerous recurrent maintenance issues.
- Attended the monthly Regional Local Health Director's meeting in Alamance County.
- Attended the Perinatal Forum on Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities at the William and Ida Friday Continuing Education Center in Chapel Hill.
- Chaired the Health Department's Quarterly Staff Meeting where Peg Wolfe was named the "Pamela Wall-Brame Employee of the Quarter" for her tireless efforts in organizing and staffing weekend Rubella immunization events for the community's Hispanic/Latino residents. Hundreds of Rubella vaccinations were administered as a result of Peg's efforts.
- Attended the organizational meeting of the Durham Safe Communities Coalition.
- Attended the United Way's "Health Issues Team" meeting to discuss issues related to funding allocation decisions which will be made next spring.
- Attended the Steering Committee meeting of Duke's "Promising Practices" Project. There is considerable concern relating to declining referrals for the project's Nurse Practitioners and an identified payer mix of 70% self pay and 30% Medicaid. This is a complete reversal of

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the project's projected payer mix of 70% Medicaid covered residents and 30% self pay.

- Attended the Youth Coordinating Board meeting as Durham's Partnership for Children Board Chairman.

Dr. McHugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

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William H. Burch, R.Ph.  
Chairman

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Brian E. Letourneau, M.S.P.H.  
Health Director